



HOLIDAYS IN TERM TIME POLICY

St John's Catholic Comprehensive School

**OUR MISSION
STATEMENT**

*Excellence for all
Service to others
Inspired by Christ*

This Policy was adopted by the Strategy Team,

Date: June 2016

Review date: June 2017

Next Review date: June 2020

St John's Catholic Comprehensive School Holidays in Term Time Policy

This policy should be read in conjunction with the school's Attendance Policy.

It is a legal requirement for children to attend school. St John's places great importance on attendance. High attendance has a positive correlation with high achievement – pupils who have the highest attendance levels often have the highest attainment levels. At St John's we want every child to fulfil their potential.

From 1 September 2013 legislation prohibited any school from authorising leave of absence for holidays except in exceptional circumstances. Amendments have been made to the 2006 regulations in the Education (Pupil Registration) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2013. These amendments, as described below, came into force on 1 September 2013.

It is therefore illegal to take children out of school for holidays during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances. There is no entitlement to any leave of absence for a holiday during term time. Schools are in session for 36 weeks per year, so there are opportunities to take children on holiday during the remaining 16 weeks.

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidance on what might be defined as exceptional circumstances and the consequences of taking any unauthorised absence in term time as regards referral to the Local Authority and the issuing of a Fixed Penalty Fine.

Exceptional circumstances MUST be put in writing to the Headteacher. Examples of exceptional circumstances might include:

- Weddings or funerals of close family members.
- Consideration will be given to religious festivals – no more than 3 days in any one academic year.
- Where a holiday is recommended by qualified professionals as part of the rehabilitation of a parent's or pupil's medical issue – evidence must be supplied.

The consequences of taking an unauthorised holiday in term time to be considered are:

- The impact on the pupil's learning
- The adverse effect on the pupil's attainment levels
- The Local Authority may issue a fixed penalty fine of up to £2,500.
- If fines are unpaid a jail sentence / community service of up to 3 months may result.